

Exelon Learnings from Extended Power Uprates

Presentation to NRC 2005 Regulatory Information Conference

March 8, 2005

Washington DC

James R. Meister

Exelon Nuclear

Overview



- Operational Challenges from EPU
- Vibration Monitoring and Actions
- EPU Vulnerability Review and Actions
- Steam Dryer Repairs and Replacement

Operational Challenges from Dresden / Quad Cities EPU



- Increased steam and feed flow velocities have caused increased pressure pulsations and vibration levels, leading to equipment failures and degradation.
 - Steam Dryer Failures
 - Main Steam Relief Valve Failure
 - Main Steam Line Low Pressure Switch Failure (1/2 Group Isolation)
 - Turbine Control Valve Pressure Switch Failure (1/2 Scram)
 - HPCI Test Tap Connection Failure
 - Main Steam Drain Line Failure
 - Feedwater Sample Probe Failure
- Industry data indicates that nearly all EPU related problems are caused by increased vibration.

Operational Challenges from D/Q EPU



Reduction of margin has affected several systems

- Reduction in available Main Steam Safety Valve set point tolerance
- Reduction in Feedwater Heater Drain Emergency
 Valve capacity
- Previous Standby Feedwater and Condensate
 Pumps are normally operated
- Reduction in Main Condenser margin

Exelon Response to EPU Lessons Learned



- Teams were established to address three major impact areas
 - Vibration Impact Resolution
 - EPU Vulnerability Review and Actions
 - Steam Dryer Repair and Replacement
- Exelon established Technical Human Performance Initiative

Vibration Monitoring and Actions **Exe**



Monitoring and Performance Evaluations for Critical Subcomponents

- Accelerometers to collect actual vibration data for piping, valves and actuators
- Shaker table testing at Wyle Labs
- Analytical Modeling of affected components

Resulting Actions

- Adjust PM scope and frequency based on results
- Implemented focused / detailed outage walkdowns
- Identify subcomponent wear and implement modifications for ERV and Target Rock Valves

EPU Vulnerability Review



Comprehensive and rigorous review of systems and components

- Utilized multiple industry organizations
- For the purpose of this review, every component in the plant was assumed to be susceptible to failure, unless proven otherwise
- Evaluated changes in operating parameters post EPU for all 4 units
 - Flow rates, temperature, pressure, radiation levels, vibration levels, wear
- Review was conducted both at the system and component levels
 53 systems included
- Identified potential vulnerabilities due to the changed parameters
- Provided recommendations to address the potential vulnerabilities

EPU Vulnerability Review Results



- Reviews confirmed that adequate safety margin exists
- 101 recommendations were made
 - 60 require outage inspections over next 4 years
 - 9 involve non-outage work
 - 32 involve additional analyses or studies
 - 27 are Exelon specific
 - 74 have potential BWR fleet applicability
- Review results were subject to three independent challenges
 - Internal Team Challenges
 - Executive Challenge Board
 - BWROG Challenge review
- Actions are in progress and Dresden and Quad Cities

Steam Dryer Repairs and Replacement



- Enhanced repairs implemented at Dresden 2/3 and Quad Cities 2
- Dryer Replacement Project Initiated
 - Develop advanced steam dryer design
 - Implement design features to minimize stresses
 - Qualify the replacement dryer through testing and analysis
 - Instrument the first dryer to verify design loadings
 - First installations will be at Quad Cities units 1 & 2
 Spring 2005

Conclusions



- Adverse effects have been and are being addressed
- Safety margins were confirmed adequate
- Exelon experience has been shared with the industry and with the NRC
- Implementation of recommended actions continues